2nd August 1932]

it may be at the moment. Whatever may be the result, I hope and believe that this Council will always bear in mind that the Members are not in the Council for their own advancement but are returned to serve the interests of those they represent. So long as that is the standard that Legislative Councillors put before themselves, I have no fear but that Madras will continue to show to the rest of India how provincial autonomy should and can be carried out.''

III.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS

Law and Order—General

Alleged beating of three picketers under the orders of the Circle Inspector of Police, Mangalore.

* 1 *Q.*—Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt: With reference to question No. 1117, answered on 24th March 1932, regarding three picketers beaten by the Mangalore Police on 10th February 1932 for picketing Messrs. R. B. Vasant & Co., will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state— 11-15 a.m.

(*a*) whether the further report called for as to why it was necessary to inflict so many blows has been received by the Government; if so, whether the hon. the Home Member will be pleased to place on the table a copy of the first as well as the further report;

(*b*) whether the crowd that assembled to watch the beating was an unlawful assembly and why it was ordered to disperse;

(*c*) after the crowd showed disposition to disperse as stated in the answer why the picketers were beaten and that so severely; and

(*d*) what action the Government have taken or propose to take against the officers that have used such excessive force?

A.—(*a*) The report has been received. Both this and the previous report are confidential; so it is not proposed to place them on the table of the House, but the required information is given below.

(*b*) The unlawful assembly consisted of the picketers and volunteers prepared to assist them who failed to disperse after being warned.

(*c*) A section of the crowd took up a defiant attitude even after being warned to disperse. They were therefore dispersed with light canes. Some members of the unlawful assembly sustained injuries, but none of the injuries was serious. The attitude of the section of the crowd which refused to disperse was such that considerable force had to be used.

(*d*) Instructions have already been issued that force should not be used in excess of the requirements of the situation. It is for the officer on the spot to decide what amount of force is necessary to effect dispersal. The need for discretion in the use of force has been impressed on all officers.

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar:—"In answer to the question it is stated that the crowd that gathered became menacing, etc. May I ask, Sir, on what authority that statement is made. Generally when these picketers go out, there is usually a big crowd merely watching them. But does that become an unlawful assembly? I believe, Sir, in law there must be a common object for an unlawful assembly."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"The statement has been made on the authority of the District Magistrate who has reported to the Government after making due enquiry."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar:—"May I ask what the nature of the enquiry made was?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"After enquiring the people who were there and the police officers, he has made the report to the Government."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—"It is stated in answer to clause (*b*) that the unlawful assembly consisted of the picketers and volunteers prepared to assist them. May I know how before any overt act was committed by those who were present there the police came to know of their unlawful object?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"As I have said, that is from the report of the District Magistrate."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—"May I know whether the report says anything as to the preparations made to assist the volunteers?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"Yes. That is a fact, Sir."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar:—"In answer to clause (*c*), it is stated 'a section of the crowd took up a defiant attitude even after being warned to disperse.' May I know what it means?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"The Police asked them to disperse. But they would not. They abused the police and became turbulent and vociferous."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar:—"May I say that I did not ask what the Police thought of the crowd?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"My hon. Friend wanted to know what the meaning of the statement was, and what I have said is from the report of the District Magistrate."

Alleged police excesses on picketers at Mangalore.

*2 *Q.*—Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt: With reference to question No. 1118 answered on 24th March 1932, will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government received the information called for;
(*b*) what the information is; and